

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 8-26, 28-35, 41-78, 84-88, and 91 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Etheredge U.S. Patent No. 6,172,674. Claims 5-7, 36-40, 89, and 90 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Etheredge in view of Williams et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,977,964. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of former dependent claim 27, which has been cancelled. As set forth in claim 1, applicant's program guide system displays a "hot list" of programs to the user. The hot list is a short focused list of hot programs that the user may be interested in viewing. An illustrative hot list that may be displayed for the user is shown in FIG. 25 and is described at pages 31 and 32 of applicant's specification.

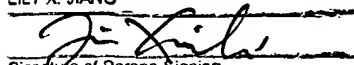
Claim 1 has been amended to make it clear that applicant's hot list is not only a list of programs based on a preference profile, but includes at least one program with an active non-expired reminder. In the example of FIG. 25, the program with the active non-expired reminder is "NEWS" on channel 5.

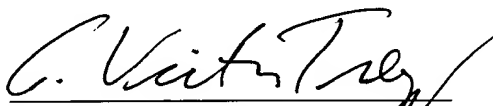
Nothing like applicant's hot list feature is shown or suggested by Etheredge. In the Office Action it was suggested that Etheredge's system could display a "favorites list." But there is nothing in Etheredge that describes the creation of a "favorites list" that contains programs with active non-expired reminders as required by claim 1. Claim 1 is therefore not anticipated by Etheredge and is in condition for allowance. Claims 2-26, 28-78, and 84-91 depend from claim 1 and are therefore also in condition for allowance. The remaining claims have been cancelled.

The foregoing demonstrates that claims 1-26, 28-78, and 84-91 are allowable. This application is therefore in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX TO REPLY TO FEBRUARY 15, 2002 OFFICE ACTION

This appendix presents the amendments that have been made in bracket-and-underline format.

Claims 27, 79-83, and 92-180 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 2, 8, 12-14, 19, 28-33, 38, 42, 45-49, 51, 54, 56, 63-78, and 86-91 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A television program guide system implemented on user television equipment, comprising:

means for providing an option for a user to [select a plurality of preference attributes] create a preference profile that [are] is indicative of the user's television programming interests; and

[means for providing an option for the user to select one of at least several preference levels for each of the plurality of selected preference attributes; and

means for displaying a list of programming based on the selected preference attributes and selected preference levels]

means for displaying a hot list of programs based on the preference profile on the user television equipment, wherein the hot list of programs includes at least one program with an active non-expired reminder.

2. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 [further comprising] wherein the means for providing [an] the option [of creating a] for the user to create the preference profile [with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated] further comprises:

means for providing an option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes that are indicative of the user's television programming interests;
and

means for providing an option for the user to select one of at least several preference levels for each of the plurality of selected preference attributes, wherein the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated with the preference profile.

8. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [2] 4 wherein at least two of the

preference profiles are active, and wherein the means for displaying [displays] the hot list of [programming] programs based on the [selected preference attributes and selected preference levels in the] at least two preference profiles [, the system] further [comprising] comprises means for indicating which of the programs in the hot list of [programming] programs satisfy which of the preference profiles.

12. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 4 wherein the means for displaying the hot list of [programming] programs [based on the selected preference attributes and selected preference levels] further comprises means for displaying the hot list of [programming] programs based on the [selected preference attributes and selected preference levels associated with the] multiple profiles.

13. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 4 further comprising means for allowing tuning to certain channels based on the [selected preference attributes and selected preference levels associated with the] multiple profiles.

14. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [2] 1 further comprising means for allowing the user to tune to a selected program, wherein the means for providing the option of creating the preference profile further comprises means for creating the preference profile based on characteristics of the selected program.

19. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [2] 1 further comprising means for allowing the user to highlight a given program listing, wherein the means for providing the option of creating the preference profile further comprises means for creating the preference profile based on characteristics of the highlighted program listing.

28. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [27] 1 further comprising means for providing an option for displaying the hot list a short time before the scheduled broadcast times of programs on the hot list and for adjusting this time.

29. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [27] 1 wherein the means for

[providing] displaying the hot list further comprises means for providing the hot list sorted by start time.

30. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [27] 1 wherein the means for [providing] displaying the hot list further comprises means for [providing] displaying the hot list sorted by channel.

31. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 28 wherein the means for [providing] displaying the hot list further comprises means for [providing] displaying the hot list sorted by priority.

32. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 31 wherein the means for [providing] displaying the hot list sorted by priority further comprises means for [providing] displaying the hot list with pay-per-view programming having highest priority and being listed first.

33. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [1] 2 further comprising means for allowing tuning to certain channels based on the selected preference attributes and selected preference levels.

38. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 36 further comprising means for automatically modifying a preference profile [with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated] based on which programs are watched by the user.

42. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 41 wherein the means for providing the personal identification number setup screen further comprises means for providing a plurality of personal identification number options associated with a preference profile [with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated].

45. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [42] 2 further comprising means for providing a personal identification number setup screen, wherein the means for providing the personal identification number options further comprises:

means for providing a plurality of personal identification number options associated with a preference

profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated; and

means for setting whether a personal identification number is required for viewing which preference attributes are associated with the profile.

46. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [42] 2 further comprising means for providing a personal identification number setup screen, wherein the means for providing the personal identification number options further comprises:

means for providing a plurality of personal identification number options associated with a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated; and

means for setting whether a personal identification number is required for modifying which preference attributes have an associated preference level of illegal.

47. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [42] 2 further comprising means for providing a personal identification number setup screen,

wherein the means for providing the personal identification number options further comprises:

means for providing a plurality of personal identification number options associated with a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated; and

means for setting whether a personal identification number is required for modifying which preference attributes have an associated preference level of mandatory.

48. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [42] 2 further comprising means for providing a personal identification number setup screen, wherein the means for providing the personal identification number options further comprises:

means for providing a plurality of personal identification number options associated with a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated; and

means for setting whether a personal identification number is required for modifying like and dislike preference levels.

49. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [1] 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a given airing of a program as a preference attribute.

51. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [1] 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a broadcast characteristic as a preference attribute.

54. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [1] 2 further comprising means for providing an option of specifying a sort order for each of the selected preference attributes.

56. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [1] 2 further comprising means for providing the user with an option of selecting a preference scope.

63. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [1] 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a type of channel as a preference attribute.

64. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [1] 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a program series as a preference attribute.

65. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [1] 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a genre of programming as a preference attribute.

66. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [1] 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of

preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting at least one rating as a preference attribute.

67. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [1] 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a given actor or actress as a preference attribute.

68. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [1] 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a given topic as a preference attribute.

69. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [1] 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a word in a program description as a preference attribute.

70. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [1] 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a given program start time as a preference attribute.

71. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [1] 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a range of broadcast times as a preference attribute.

72. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [1] 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting original programming as a preference attribute.

73. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [1] 2 wherein the means for

providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a given language as a preference attribute.

74. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [1] 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a critics rating as a preference attribute.

75. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [1] 2 further comprising means for providing an option of deselecting at least one of the selected preference attributes.

76. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [1] 2 wherein the preference levels include at least like and dislike.

77. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [1] 2 wherein the preference levels include at least strong like and weak like.

78. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [1] 2 wherein the preference levels include at least strong dislike and weak dislike.

86. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein a master preference profile that is accessed by a master personal identification number is used to define certain television viewing preferences, the system further comprising means for displaying the hot list of [programming] programs based on the master profile.

87. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [1] 2 wherein a master preference profile that is accessed by a master personal identification number is used to define certain television viewing preferences, the means for displaying the hot list of [programming] programs further comprising means for displaying the hot list of [programming] programs based on selected preference attributes and selected preference levels in the master profile.

88. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising [: means for providing an option of creating a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated; and] means for providing an opportunity for setting non-program settings associated with the preference profile.

89. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising [: means for providing an option of creating a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated; and] means for providing an opportunity for setting non-program settings associated with the preference profile, wherein the non-program settings include audio settings for the user television equipment.

90. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising [: means for providing an option of creating a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated; and] means for providing an opportunity for setting non-program settings associated

with the preference profile, wherein the non-program settings include display settings.

91. (Amended) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising:

means for providing an opportunity for creating multiple preference profiles [, each of which has an associated set of selected preference attributes and selected preference levels];

means for providing an option of selecting which of the profiles to make active; and

means for providing access to a messaging service based on information on which profile is active.